

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 03439 181616Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 CU-02 /059 W
-----101730 182011Z /70
R 181500Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4607
INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 3439

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS PINT IS LE
SUBJ: CALL BY IMAM MUSA SADR

1. SHIA IMAM, MUSA SADR, CALLED ON ME AT YARZE AT HIS REQUEST, JULY 16. HE SPENT GOOD DEAL OF TIME TALKING ABOUT SITUATION IN SOUTH AND DIFFICULT STRAITS IN WHICH SHIA COMMUNITY FOUND ITSELF. HE NOTED THAT SHIA WERE SUSPECTED BY EVERYBODY AND MORE OR LESS ABANDONED BY LEBANESE GOVERNMENT. HE SAID FORMERLY THEY HAD BEEN SUPPORTED BY IRAN, BUT AS WE KNEW, GOVERNMENT OF IRAN WAS TYRANNICAL AND SHIA REALLY WOULD NOT WANT TO COOPERATE WITH IT (I THINK IMAM WAS HINTING HE WOULD LIKE MONETARY SUPPORT FROM US, BUT I IGNORED THE HINT).

2. IMAM GAVE LONG HISTORICAL RECITAL OF HOW SHIA HAD ARRIVED IN THEIR PRESENT CONDITION IN THE SOUTH AND SPOKE OF NEED FOR STEPS TO HELP THEM. I SAID WE DOING EVERYTHING WE COULD TO DEFUSE THE SITUATION, BUT MUCH OF PROBLEM WAS DUE TO LEBANESE DISUNITY, INCLUDING DISUNITY WITHIN SHIA COMMUNITY. SHIA WOULD DO WELL TO SETTLE THEIR OWN DIFFERENCES IN ORDER TO BE ABLE TO MAKE A COMMON FRONT. IMAM ACCEPTED THIS AND SAID HE WAS MAKING AN EFFORT IN THAT DIRECTION AND HOPED THERE WOULD BE SOME RESULTS SOON.

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3. IMAM SAID HE WAS CONSIDERING POSSIBILITY OF TRIP TO THE UNITED STATES IN ORDER TO PUT SHIA CASE MORE PROMINENTLY BEFORE WORLD COMMUNITY. HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR HIM TO TALK TO NEWSPAPER EDITORS AND APPEAR ON TELEVISION, ETC., IN ORDER TO MAKE AMERICA CONSCIOUS OF THE FACT THAT THERE WERE PEOPLE CALLED THE SHIA AND THAT THEY WERE OPPRESSED. HE HAD NOTED THAT THE GREEK ORTHODOX PATRIARCH HAD BEEN

RECEIVED BY THE PRESIDENT AND HOPED HE WOULD HAVE THE SAME OPPORTUNITY. I SAID PRESIDENT'S SCHEDULED WAS VERY BUSY, AND I REALLY COULD NOT OFFER HIM ANY ENCOURAGEMENT ON THAT SCORE.

4. COMMENT: IMAM MUSA IS NOW HOLDING VALID AIRLINE TICKET ISSUED TO HIM UNDER AN FY 75 IV GRANT (BEIRUT A-146, AUGUST 8, 1973). HE WAS UNABLE TO MAKE THE TRIP AS ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED BECAUSE OF THE CIVIL STRIFE IN LEBANON. SINCE ORIGINAL GRANT WAS MADE, IMAM MUSA HAS BECOME CONTROVERSIAL CHARACTER. WE DO NOT KNOW WHETHER WE REALLY WANT HIM TO GO TO THE UNITED STATES AT THIS TIME OR NOT. I THEREFORE DID NOT AVAIL MYSELF OPENING IMAM MUSA GAVE TO DISCUSS HIS TRIP AND HE LEFT SOMEWHAT MIFFED. WE ARE GOING TO LEAVE MATTERS AS THEY ARE FOR THE TIME BEING NEVERTHELESS.
PARKER

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 18-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
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TAGS: PINS, PINT, IS, LE, (SADR, MUSA)
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